

the other press

the douglas college student newspaper since 1976

Issue 13, Vol 34, January 7/08

# FARE HIKE



New Year brings rise in fares  
for Skytrain and Buses

P 4



# The Other Press

## THE OTHER PRESS

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Room 1020 – 700  
Royal Avenue,  
New Westminster, BC  
V3L 5B2

TELEPHONE: 604.525.3542  
FAX: 604.525.3505

### EDITOR IN CHIEF

J.J. McCullough  
editor.otherpress@gmail.com

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Iain Reeve  
op.associate@gmail.com

### ACCOUNTANT AND BUSINESS MANAGER

Mark Fisher  
mewkav@yahoo.com

### NEWS EDITOR

Garth McLennan (acting)  
supergarth@hotmail.com

### SPORTS EDITOR

Garth McLennan  
supergarth@hotmail.com

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Luke Simcoe  
aeditor@gmail.com

### OPINIONS EDITOR

Laura Kelsey  
drsexysex@yahoo.ca

### HUMOR EDITOR

Liam Britten  
saltyliam@gmail.com

### GRAPHICS

Trevor Hargreaves (acting)

### LAYOUT

Angela Blattmann  
otherlayout@gmail.com

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Laura Kelsey (acting)  
drsexysex@yahoo.ca

### WEB/I.T.

Edward Keech  
other\_press@shaw.ca

### DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Derek Ungless  
dungless1980@shaw.ca

### ILLUSTRATOR

J.J. McCullough  
wart\_mamu@yahoo.com

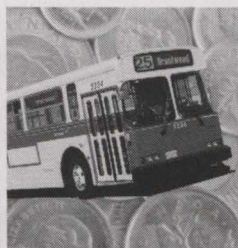
### ADVERTISING MANAGER

Luke Simcoe  
lukesimcoe@yahoo.ca

## This Week's Headlines

January 7, 2007

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**A new year brings with a sharp rise in Bus and Skytrain costs**

-Garth McLennan, page 4

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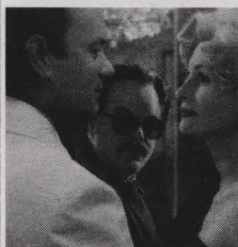
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**Spice Girls rock Vancouver on their comeback tour**

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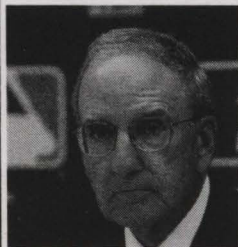
### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



**New movie casts doubt on American foreign policy... in 1988!**

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**Have steroids (and a US Senator) ruined baseball forever?**

-Garth McLennan, page 16

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Anyone can submit to the Other Press. The weekly deadline for submissions is Thursday for publication the following Thursday. Letters to the Editor and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday noon and can be submitted to the editor at: editor.otherpress@gmail.com. All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor. Please include your name, email address, word

count, and submit via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the attention of the appropriate editor.

The Other Press will pay \$50 to any student who writes an article of at least 1,500 words for the newspaper's "features" section. Submit story ideas to the Editor in Chief.

The Other Press holds weekly staff meetings at 6 PM on Mondays in room 1020. All interested students are welcome.

### NEWS SUBMISSIONS

editor.otherpress@gmail.com

### SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

supergarth@hotmail.com

### A&E SUBMISSIONS

aeditor@gmail.com

### FEATURE ARTICLES

editor.otherpress@gmail.com

### OPINION SUBMISSIONS

drsexysex@yahoo.ca

## WHO WE ARE

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. Today we are registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by a board of directors.

The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the

Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

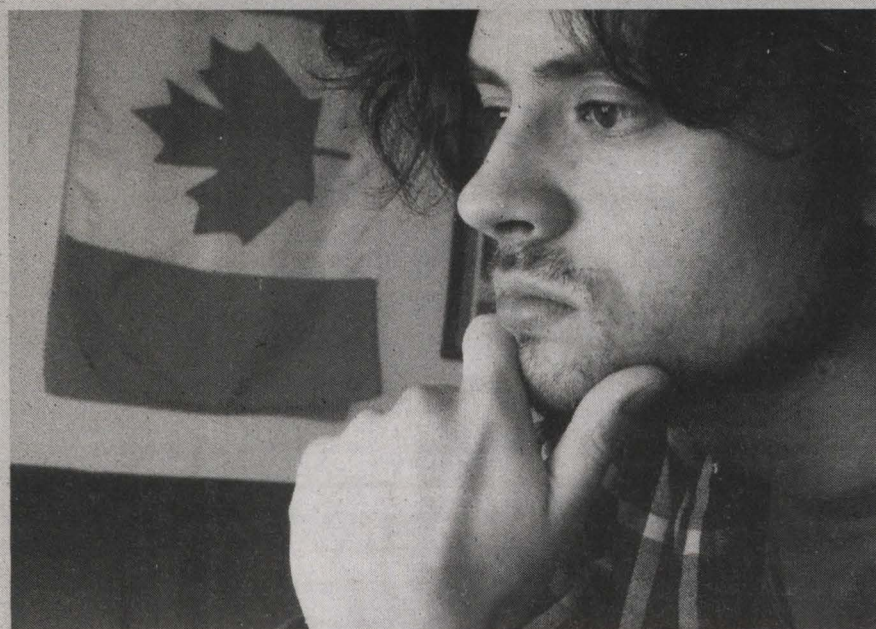
The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.

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# LETTITOR

## 2007: The Last Bad Year



Honestly, did anyone have a good 2007? Nearly everyone I've spoken to recently, friends, family, co-workers, Benazir Bhutto, etc, all seem to agree—'07 sucked. To many, it was simply a year of muddling through. Change seemed to be on the horizon, but never quite within grasp. Oh sure, we had our ambitious dreams, but the goals were still a few years away from fruition. In the meantime, all we could do was toil, work, and toil some more to get through the hump year that was 2008, and edge a wee bit closer to someplace better.

Stephen Harper certainly had one of those years. Stalled in minority-government land, he got to do very little of what he actually wanted, and instead had to bite his tongue and pretend that "protecting arctic sovereignty" or signing climate-change agreements in Indonesia were the kinds of things he'd always dreamed of doing as PM. Should he ever win his previous majority someday, 2007 will hardly be recalled as one of the golden years of the Harper reign (except maybe by Stephane Dion).

Down in the US of States it was more or less the same. Thanks to the

increasingly awkward nature of the primary system in this era of the 24-hour news cycle, 2007 was not formally an election year, yet it sure seemed like one. With endless debates, attack ads, and pundits deconstructing their every move, by now an exasperated Clinton, Giuliani, Obama, Romney, et al are no doubt eager to leave '07 eager and just get to the friggin vote already.

Here at the OP, our 2007 was a year of considerable muddling through as well. I know I am starting to sound like a bit of a broken record when I keep bringing this up, but our paper remains under-staffed as we enter 2008. I'm planning on launching a bit of a propaganda offensive in the coming weeks to attempt to fix this, and recruit some new people, but the fact remains that 2007 was at times a bit of a struggle for this fine journal of opinion.

Of course, 2007 was also the year I became editor, so it wasn't all bad. Indeed, I continue to be delighted at the amount of goodwill I've been shown by students since I took over. It's always fun to be recognized in the hall by kids you don't even know and have them praise the work you're doing; it helps make all the hassles worthwhile. Now if only more of them would actually *write* for us...

In closing, let me just make some predictions for the coming year, which I, as a journalist, am contractually obligated to make.

I'm not much of a trendspotter, but I do know student politics. And as far as that goes, keep your eyes on the Canadian Federation of Students in '08. With the SFU student union planning a strong campaign to leave the group, and a few sympathetic individuals waging a copycat campaign in Douglas (see my story on Wendy Case inside), students across British Columbia will be finally get an opportunity to voice an opinion on one of the most heated feuds to consume the BC student movement in quite some time.

But anyway, regardless of what happens in 2008, you know what paper you can always turn to keep up to date on the events that affect your life, right? Correct, *the National Post*. Their coverage can't be beat. But *The Other Press* is okay too. And it will even better once you join.

**J.J. McCullough**

**Editor in Chief of the Other Press**

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# Transit Hikes Hit Vancouver

By Garth McLennan, News Editor

With the coming of the New Year, the cost of public transit has been upped across the board. The fare increases were formally approved in June of 2007, with Translink officials citing the need to pay for new equipment and upgrades as the reason for the increases. The fee raises came into effect on the first day of 2008.

For standard, one-zone tickets the price will rise to \$2.50 for an adult ticket, and to \$1.75 for a concession fare. Two-zone fares have had their costs boosted by 50 cents to \$3.75, while a three-zone pass will now set the user back a hefty \$5. The price of monthly public transportation passes have also been increased, with a one-zone costing \$73, a two-zone being set at \$99, and a three-zone at \$136. The 1.5 hour leeway from the purchase of a ticket remains the same.

Vancouverites greeted the fare increases mostly with dismay.

"I'm okay with a slight increase," says Rachel Goldman, "I can see Translink needing to up their fares, but it really becomes difficult for the working poor. Also, the one and half hour time between tickets is ridiculous,

it should be much longer."

"The transit fare increase that came into effect on the first is scandalous. Poor working people should stand up as one person against it. People in Toronto still pay less for their transit use in both directions than we do here. The fact that a person only has a 90 minute leeway on a single ticket to go to Vancouver and come back is ridiculous. If you take the bus from places like Port Moody or Port Coquitlam, you can barely say hello before you have to turn around to go back again," says Bozena Siedlecka of Port Moody.

It is estimated that for a family of four to utilize public transit to go to and from metro Vancouver, the cost will be around \$40.

"Translink should ditch the zoning and peak/off-peak periods and settle on a single Metro Vancouver fare. This would free the designers to build a more efficient system by not having to factor in the different zone boundaries. It would also be great if the Translink board and our government officials took transit to work to gauge the service for themselves," said Coquitlam's Tony Chung.

| New Fares              |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Skytrain & Bus (Adult) |          |
| 1 Zone                 | \$2.50   |
| 2 Zone                 | \$3.75   |
| 3 Zone                 | \$5.00   |
| Monthly Fare Cards     |          |
| 1 Zone                 | \$73.00  |
| 2 Zone                 | \$99.00  |
| 3 Zone                 | \$136.00 |

## Third Member of Student Union Board Resigns

Wendy Case cites tensions between pro, anti-CFS factions of DSU reason for leaving

By JJ McCullough, Editor in Chief

Wendy Case, the Aboriginal Liaison of the Douglas Students' Union has officially served notice of her intention to resign from the student government, citing anger and frustration with the organizations' political dynamic.

"I have faced so much personal opposition from this Representative Committee that it is actually starting to affect my health," she said in an interview with *The Other Press*. She claims that the tensions and pressures of the job had caused her to suffer from high levels of stress and anxiety attacks. Arguing that her political views were often at odds with other members of the board, Case claims that she was frequently the target of personal insults and criticisms that went "beyond differences of opinion."

Case was originally elected to the DSU board of directors in last spring's general election as part of the broad-based "Revive" slate that swept all but two of the board's seats. The coalition party was always a tenuous alliance, however, and the group's post-election unity has steadily broken down over the last few months as political cleavages emerge though in-fighting.

Chief amongst the divisions is the matter of the Canadian Federation of Students, an organization of which Case is an extremely vocal critic, and has accused of corruption and mismanagement. Yet many other board members consider

her criticisms unjustified, and remain strong supporters of the CFS, creating considerable tension.

"If you are an open de-federate on this board you're often accused of having opinions just for the sake of opposing the CFS," said Case, referring to her opinion that the Douglas Students'

and Wendy doesn't quite mesh up with that."

"I think it's kind of upsetting how stressful the situation has gotten for everyone," he added.

The Canadian Federation of Students is an increasingly controversial student group to which many student

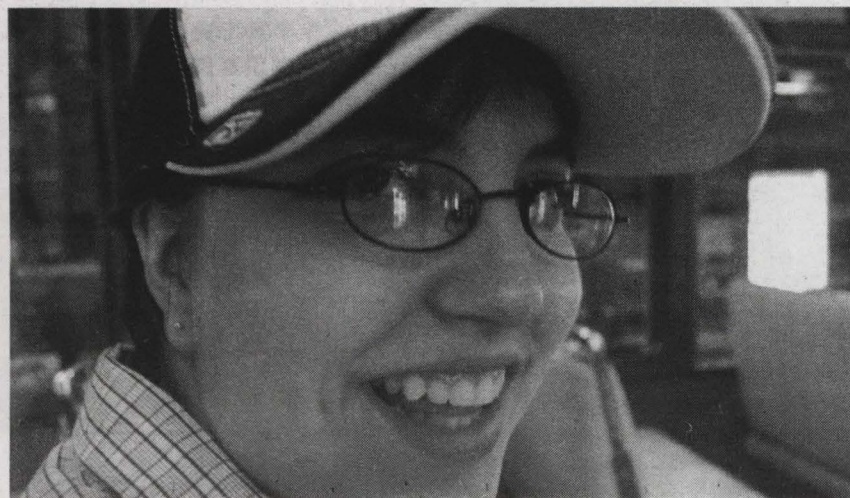
of using personal vendettas to try and bring down a successful organization.

Despite her departure, Case says she intends to stay fairly active in DSU politics and remain "one of the harshest critics" of the DSU board. With Steinbach, the two now plan to begin circulating a petition calling for the DSU to leave the Canadian Federation of Students, an effort, which if successful, could eventually trigger a College-wide vote on the matter.

"I want to feel like I've accomplished something important before I leave Douglas," said Case, "and de-federation is really important to me."

Wendy Case is the third member of the DSU board to resign since last year's election, and will join former Pride Liaison Nathaniel Wolfe and former Member-at-Large Jessica McCallum, both of whom resigned last semester. Both McCallum and Wolfe resigned for largely personal reasons, though Wolfe, who also held anti-CFS views, offered some harsh political words in his resignation letter. Case is the first member to depart on explicitly political grounds, however.

Members of the pro-CFS faction of the DSU board could not be reached for comment as of press time, but Alysia MacGrotty, the DSU's external relations officer and prominent CFS supporter claimed she felt Case's departure was "inevitable."



Union should leave, or "de-federate" from the larger Federation of Students. "There has definitely been persecution because we're in the minority," she stated.

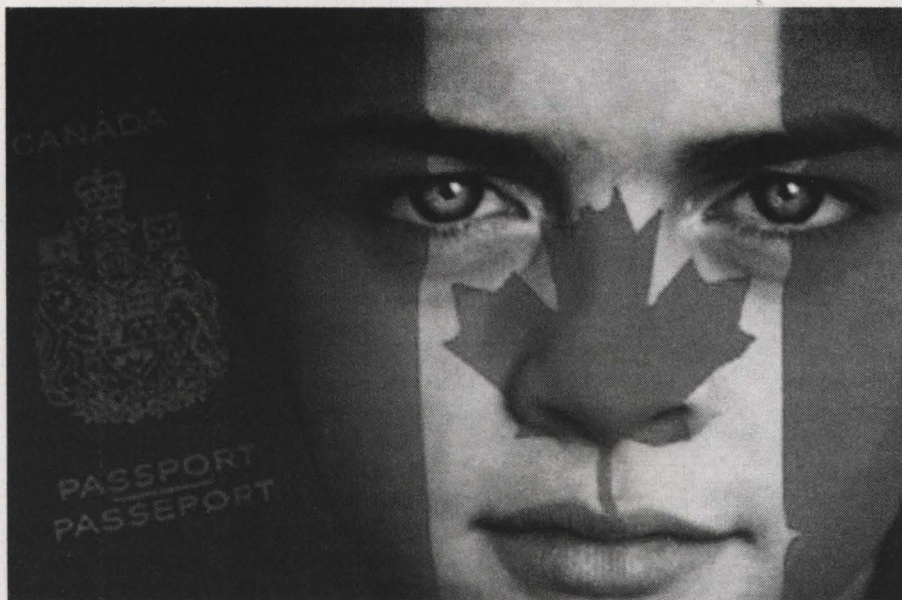
Case's boyfriend, and fellow DSU board member Matthew Steinbach, repeated her claims. "The other members of the board have been putting a lot of focus on the CFS and CFS activities

unions across Canada belong. It exists primarily to co-ordinate and facilitate student activism and lobbying efforts among its member unions, but the group has lately become the centre of a great deal of political criticism in many schools across British Columbia. Critics have painted the CFS as wasteful and ineffective bureaucracy, while supporters have accused anti-CFS student politicians



# Canada's Immigrant Numbers on the Rise

By Garth McLennan, News Editor



According to the Canadian national census, over one million people designate one of the Chinese languages as their original language. This new revelation makes Chinese, which is spoken in the Mandarin or Cantonese tongues, the third most spoken language

in the country, behind only English and French, respectively.

It is not just Chinese that is experiencing a surge in speakers through immigration. In BC, 26.8 percent of all residents reported that they possess a native tongue that is not English or French. For example, in the city of

Richmond, 60.3 percent of people, or 105,250 of the 174,461 people living in Richmond, have a native language other than English or French. This is the highest of any city in Canada.

For Canadian provinces and territories, the territory of Nunavut has an astonishing 71.2 percent of its inhabitants who speak a non-English or French native language. Percentage wise, British Columbia and Newfoundland are next with 26.8 percent of their population speaking a foreign native tongue, and Ontario follows suit with 26.1 percent of their people.

Hong Kong immigrant Kevin Wong believes that the immigration insurgence has to do with the image of Canada as a very ethnically diverse country.

"Everyone is part of a mixture. There's a mixture of cultures here – from their position in society and their way of living. Also they can live in their original style too," says Wong.

Canada has a total immigrant population of about 6 million landed immigrants. Of that number, a majority came from parts of Asia and the Middle

East. For the first time in Canadian history, the number of immigrants born in Asia-Middle East totaled more than immigrants of European decent. There are approximately 2.278 million European born Canadian citizens.

Also revealed in the study was that 27.5 percent of British Columbians are born outside of Canada. Nationally, 20 percent of all Canadian citizens are not Canadian born. Among major Canadian, American and Australian cities, Vancouver is now second, behind Toronto and in front of Miami, Florida in the proportion of citizens not born in the country they are living in.

The study tallied up an incredible 200 languages being considered a native language throughout the study for 2006.

Due to a declining birth-rate on British Columbian soil, coupled with increasing unemployment numbers, a remarkable 85 percent of citizen growth in this province will be provided by immigration from foreign countries until the next national census study is conducted.

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## Winter Updates

### Pickton Convicted of Second-Degree Murder

By Garth McLennan, News Editor

Robert "Willie" Pickton has been convicted of six counts of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

The now-infamous serial killer was found guilty of murdering Marnie Frey, Brenda Wolfe, Georgina Papin, Mona Wilson, Sereena Abotsway, and Andrea Joesbury last month, and will stand trial for the murder of 20 other women in January, with a tentative date being set for January 17. However, it is possible the trial for the other 20 deceased women could be delayed and postponed multiple times if Pickton opts to appeal his first conviction.

"Mr. Pickton, there's really nothing I can say to adequately express the revulsion the community feels about these killings," Judge James Williams said.

All of the women were from the downtown eastside, and had problems with drug addiction and prostitution. However, finding a motive was difficult for the brutal pig farmer.

"There is nothing before this court that would enable an understanding of what motivated Mr. Pickton. The women who were murdered were members of our community. They were women who had troubled lives. Each

of them found themselves in positions of extreme vulnerability. These were persons who were in the ugly grasp of substance abuse and addiction, persons who were selling their bodies to strangers in order to survive. What happened to them was senseless and despicable," Williams said after the proceeding.

Because of the trouble in establishing motive during the marathon 10 month trial that involved 128 different witnesses, the jury was unable to find sufficient evidence that Pickton's actions were premeditated, and therefore first-degree murder.

Normally, when a person is convicted of second-degree murder, they are deemed ineligible for parole for 10-15 years. Pickton was denied parole by Judge Williams for the maximum 25 years, a sentence co-currant with first-degree murder. Due to provisions in the Canadian justice system, Pickton will not serve his six life sentences for murder consecutively. He will serve them co-currently. This means that Pickton will serve time in jail for all of his crimes at the same time, so he is really only serving time for the equivalent of one murder.

The murders were of a gruesome and horrific nature. Wilson, Abotsway and Joesbury had their heads, hands, and feet dismembered and found

in buckets on the Pickton farm, which is located in Port Coquitlam. Also discovered in buckets were parts of the jaws of Wolfe and Frey, as well as the hand bones of Papin. Five of Wolfe's teeth were found in horse manure on the farm.

After the judge and jury handed down the conviction and sentence, the court became even more emotional as the victim's families were permitted to read out their victim impact statements.

"Mr. Pickton, why would you do that? What did they do to you? You took something from me that is worth a million things to me. When you took her from me it was like ripping out my heart," said Lynn Frey, the mother of Melanie Frey, reading the letter Melanie's daughter Brittney wrote to Pickton.

"I will never forget the damage that you caused our family with your evil deeds," said Elana Papin, the sister of Georgina Papin.



Throughout the readings of the victim impact statements, tears and sobs were seen and heard throughout the courtroom. Everyone, even lead prosecutor Mike Petrie, was overcome by emotion. Everyone that is, except Pickton, who sat stoically in his seat.

RCMP Inspector Bill Fordy, the main interrogator of Pickton after he was arrested back in 2002, was not impressed with the verdicts returned by the jury.

"We let these girls and women down in life. We've now let them down in death. Personally, I find it difficult to get my head around the notion that you could kill once, and commit subsequent offences, and it not be planned," said Fordy.

### Black Gets 6.5 Years in Prison

By Garth McLennan, News Editor



Media mogul Conrad Black was sentenced to six and a half years in the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, a Federal low-security penitentiary 100 kilometers from Tampa Bay, Florida.

Black was convicted of fraud and was sentenced after it was proven he stole millions of dollars from Hollinger International, the company he was chief executive officer for. In addition to his sentence, which he will have to begin on March 3, Black will be slapped

with a \$125,000 fine, and be ordered to relinquish \$6.1 million.

"Mr. Black, I cannot understand how somebody of your stature could engage in the conduct you engaged in and put everything at risk, including your reputation," Judge Amy St. Eve told the ex-chairman and CEO. Juror James Kirby also weighed in.

"Relative to the number of charges he was charged with versus what he was convicted of, I think it was relatively fair, I definitely think time

should be served. As far as how long, I think the judge is in a better position to make that determination, but I am pleased he is going to jail."

St. Eve had originally recommended a sentence of seven to eight years.

"No one is above the law, and that Mr. Black, includes you," St. Eve said.

Black said little at his sentencing, but did promise an appeal. His Chicago based lawyer, Ed Genson, believed the trial was fair and that Black will indeed appeal.

"Conrad has good appeal lawyers and hopefully he's going to prevail on appeal," he said. "I'm mainly impressed with Judge Amy St. Eve. I thought she gave us a fair trial and a fair hearing."

Black's Canadian lawyer, Edward Greenspan, was not happy Black will have to go to jail, but said the sentencing could have been a lot worse.

"I'm not pleased today that he got a single day in jail, but given what we came in to with this trial, we were facing allegations that included \$90 million in fraud and we were facing what might have been tantamount to life in jail. It's a very nerve-wracking beginning of a trial for someone charged with a non-violent offence. But that's America today."

The prosecutors on the case were satisfied with the verdict, despite their suggestion that Black be sentenced to 20 years in prison. Black has been highly critical of the prosecution throughout the case, even referring to them as "Nazis."

"Mr. Black is going to jail as a convicted felon, convicted of fraud. So we proved the case," Patrick Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for Chicago, told reporters. "The bottom line is Mr. Black will do 6 1/2 years in jail. That's a serious amount of time."

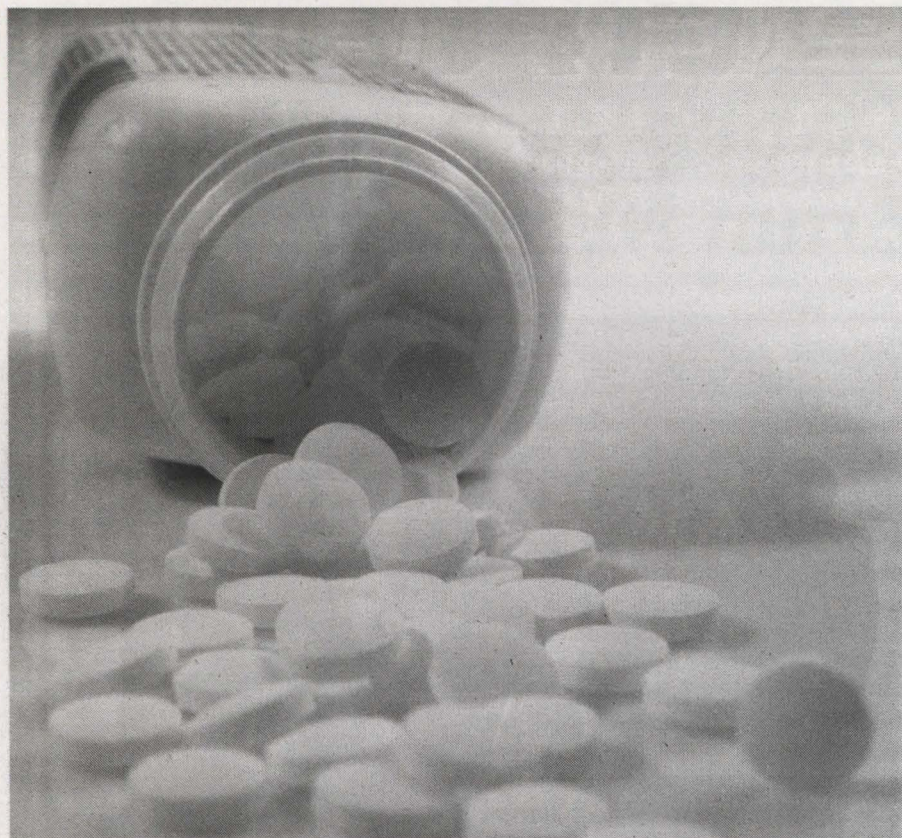
David Radler, a co-conspirator with Black in the case, agreed to testify against Black in exchange for a 29-month prison sentence that will be served in a Canadian penitentiary, where he will most likely be released 20 months earlier than he would in an American facility.

Black and Radler started Hollinger in 1969 with the ownership of a single Quebec newspaper. It is now named Sun-Times Media Group Inc. and is the world's third largest publisher. Based in Chicago, its well known papers include *The Vancouver Sun*, *The Vancouver Province*, *The National Post*, London's *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and *The Chicago Sun-Times*.



# Intercontinental Drug Ring Exposed

By Garth McLennan, News Editor



Vancouver police have arrested Yong Long Ye, a 40-year old man believed to be the head of an international drug cartel involved in the manufacturing and trafficking of cocaine, heroine, crystal meth, marijuana, ecstasy and many more types.

The arrest came after a raid on Ye's million dollar home, which police say doubled as his drug cartel's headquarters on Deering Island, one of nine raids they have made in connection with the operation. So far, around 100 people globally have been arrested in accordance with the \$168 million drug enterprise that is involved in eight countries on three continents. 17 of the arrestees reside in or are from the Lower Mainland. Throughout the investigation, nicknamed Operation Paragon, the suspects spoke six languages, English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Hindi and Vietnamese. Police intercepted over 200,000 telephone calls between the suspects.

Ye, who was first brought to police attention in 2003 after he was charged with two counts each of extortion and trafficking, faces 16 charges of conspiracy, trafficking, and

money laundering. It is believed that Ye funded his lucrative drug operation through the Vancouver real estate market, which has been red-hot for months. Ye's six luxury properties are worth in excess of \$6 million. According to authorities, Ye would purchase the homes, make renovations on the properties, and then take out numerous, and quite large, mortgages on them. The money he received from the mortgages would finance his international drug business.

From the six properties that were seized, police discovered a number of illegal vehicles, guns, cash, and weapons. The police raids from all eight nations (Canada, US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, China and India) yielded 640 kilograms of cocaine, 111 kilos of various methamphetamines, 83 kilograms worth of ecstasy, 26 units of heroin, an incredible 7,832 pounds of marijuana, 1,202 kilograms of ephedrine approximately \$2.1 million in cash, 17 illegally owned guns, and \$300,000 worth of luxury high-end cars.

Police are saying that busting the drug ring they believe is under the leadership of Ye is the biggest of it's kind in the history of British Columbia.

"We've chopped the head off

the snake. We've gone right to the top of this one," said Vancouver police Dean Robinson. "This will have a huge impact on the drug trade in the Lower Mainland."

The drug venture produced and shipped tens of millions of dollars and tons of drugs around the globe through several highly sophisticated and subtle systems. Most of the cartel's operations were carried out simultaneously and in accordance with one another. At first glance, the cartel's operations appear unconnected. They brought cocaine from Los Angeles to Toronto by truck. They shipped methamphetamine from Vancouver to Australia. Heroin was transported to various spots in Canada from Pakistan and India. Ye, who is believed to have controlled 38 bank accounts across Asia to operate the drug cartel, allegedly paid for all of this.

However, it is believed that one of the cartel's associates has a connection in the trucking industry, which he used to ship the cocaine from LA to Toronto. The drugs were sent to Toronto in false-bottom boxes loaded into shipping containers on the trucks. This is how the cartel was originally brought to police attention. After the drugs were discovered, the BC Integrated Gang Task Force was alerted, and they began the arduous process of bringing down the criminal empire.

The money made from that was then carried to British Columbia by couriers, where it was used to produce crystal meth and marijuana. The weed was sold locally, and the meth was shipped out to primarily Australia and New Zealand, however, all of the drugs are believed to have been distributed throughout the Pacific Rim. Due to the lack of meth production in the land down under, it was sold for triple the price it would have got here. Minh Tan Le has been apprehended in connection with the meth sales. It is believed that the meth was sent to Australia and New Zealand in the linings of cardboard boxes and suitcases. Le's father is alleged to have been the recipient of the meth in Australia, where he lives, and he would then further distribute the product.

According to the investigation, after the meth was sold in Australia and New Zealand, the profits were deposited in the 38 Asian bank accounts. After the money was hidden and distributed

around Asia, it was transferred secretly back to Canada, it got there without the trouble of following international money export restrictions and regulations.

The couriers who are alleged to have transported the drug money from Toronto to Vancouver have been said to have come via commercial air travel. The money shipments have been monitored since July 6, 2007, and at the time of Ye's arrest, totaled \$4.6 million. The couriers are believed to have smuggled \$250,000 per trip.

The cartel is also charged with supplying Vancouver and Lower Mainland area meth and ecstasy labs with essential chemicals.

"The criminal element should take note the police aren't confined to borders," said Marianne Ryan, a member of the Canadian Forces Special Enforcement Unit.

The investigation into the cartel's affairs, which began in October of 2006 and lasted 14 months, and was a massive undertaking that required the services of over 200 law enforcement officers from the RCMP, the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia, and 10 police forces from smaller municipalities. The Canadian police forces involved in the investigation were aided by a number of law enforcement agencies from Australia, New Zealand, India, Taiwan, Japan, and China.

Vancouver police were thrilled with the massive seizure, and Dean Robinson of the Vancouver Police department believes that the results of the investigation will have a very positive result.

"Gangsters and drug traffickers don't respect borders; neither do the police, we know this will have a large impact on the drug trade in the Lower Mainland," said Robinson.

"There is a direct link between organized crime, the narcotics smuggling, a huge amount of marijuana coming out of British Columbia and the violence on our streets." Said John Robin of the BC Integrated Gang Task Force.

Inspector Pat Fogarty was the leading man from the Gang Task Force, as well as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit's investigation. He said that the lengthy investigation took them "from the violence of the streets right up to the boardroom of the drug trade."

## Welcome Back From the Student Union

Dear Students,

Welcome back to another fun filled semester at Douglas College. We've introduced a new system this year. Instead of having students post used book ads around the school, the Douglas Students' Union has gone hi-tech and has created an online Bookswap. To check it out, head to <http://www.cfslocal18.ca> and then click "Bookswap." Other school items can also be posted so it's definitely worth a look.

Our annual Pancake Breakfast is also

coming up quickly on January 15th. It's free and definitely worth your time so come before or after class or on your break. There will be mounds of pancakes complete with the usual whipping cream, fruit, syrup, and drinks that Douglas students have become accustomed to.

Clubs Day is also worth checking out as it features all the clubs that can be found on Campus. Come by the Concourse on January 10<sup>th</sup> to see which clubs you might be interested in.

Don't forget that this semester is also the time of the ever interesting and

entertaining Douglas Students' Union elections. To find out more about the elections just come by the Douglas Students' Union building (Take the exit by security and take your first left; or take the exit by the theatre on the fourth floor and go across to the other building) and speak with one of our representatives. Students attending David Lam can also drop by the Douglas Students' Union office across from Student Services. To keep informed about the current board, keep reading the Other Press.

I will also take this opportunity to

announce my resignation from the Representative Committee of the Douglas Students' Union. I wish students the best of luck as they head to the polls this semester. Personally, I recommend checking out the All Candidates Forums held at both campuses because not only does it keep you informed, it can also be very entertaining. Remember to stay sane this semester and not overdo it.

Sincerely yours,  
Wendy Case  
Aboriginal Liaison,  
Douglas Students' Union





## Bhutto One Giant Leap for Women



**Laura Kelsey**  
opinions editor

Many claimed Benazir Bhutto was the lesser of two evils. But regardless of her stance on the issues or her party's past dealings, Bhutto was well loved in Pakistan, as the world can tell from the fiery backlash occurring from her December assassination.

As news stations show streets full of mourners, it is amazing to see that it is mainly *men* who are the most distraught over her death. How come a woman politician garnered more respect in an Islamic republic than any woman can achieve in North America?

North America is awash with passive sexism. It is blatant in our television programs and in our parliament. If a woman shows strength in the West, she is either a bitch or a lesbian. Or ambitious.

Take the treatment of Belinda Stronach. As a good-looking female in an old and ugly male-dominated role, she was scrutinized by the media and members of parliament on everything from her wardrobe to her personal relationships. Ex-party member and boyfriend Peter MacKay may or may not have called her a *dog* in Canada's House of Commons, and former Premier

of Alberta Ralph Klein made a dirty reference about her in a speech, the instances were laughed off and treated as nothing more than jokes. But when Liberal leader Stephane Dion suggested Stephen Harper get some exercise, the Conservatives were in an uproar.

Helena Guergis, a junior minister for the Tories, said "real leaders ... do not go around making fun of other people's weight." But what about the litany of personal disrespect the Conservatives threw at Stronach when she left their party?

*"We are still a long way off from seeing women in positions of real power in the West."*

Politics are not the only areas slated for chauvinism. A quick flip through international and local news reports show gender bias alive and well throughout North America. Most 6:00 PM broadcasters are men, not just men,

but old men, and usually overweight and unattractive. Besides Barbara Walters, it is rare to see a woman past fifty years old—without ten pounds of injected botox on her face—in the big seat.

Global BC offers a prime example of televised sexism. After faithfully remaining with the station for years, Deborra Hope was passed over for the PM anchor position for newcomer Chris Gailus. And you won't see a single sagging female face in the Global cast—but plenty of overweight, aging men.

Hillary Clinton is a lesbian. Meg Griffin is a loser. Britney Spears is a whore. We are still a long way off from seeing women in positions of real power in the West.

Rest in peace, Bhutto, for showing the world a woman *can* make a difference.

## Free Newspapers Strong-Arm a Win From NW City Council

By Nikalas Kryzanowski

During the fall, the city council of New Westminster passed a motion favouring the removal of all free newspapers boxes around parts of the city effective January 1, 2008.

The proposal was justified on the grounds that the papers contribute to what the city sees as a growing problem with litter in the downtown, which impedes the livability and mobility of residents as well as contributing to other social problems. Thanks to pressure and legal threats from the newspapers, however, council ultimately decided to postpone the ban indefinitely and explore other ways of combating the identified problems with the core.

The predictable backlash from newspaper publishers suggests that the removal of the boxes violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and freedom of the press. This argument, which evokes terrible oppression, doesn't seem to actually hold much water in what is essentially a business decision. Public space is licensed by the city of New Westminster. It is up to the city to decide whether they want to lease the space. The city has the right to administer its own property however it chooses. That's the bottom line.

If I were denied a license to set up a lemonade stand on a downtown sidewalk or prevented from hanging my own personal banner (complete with sponsor) permanently from the roof of city hall, it would be the same situation. As is the case with all of us, the newspapers have absolutely no inherent claim to any civic real estate without the approval of City Council.

The dissemination of information to the public is certainly a key facet of any democratic environment. But, in this technological age, access to media is as simple as pushing a button and it's now gotten to the point of over-

saturation. The removal of the freebies will not prevent anyone from accessing information or exchanging ideas. Free papers will continue to permeate and circulate freely throughout the city. Private stores are still able to distribute the papers if they so choose. Newsies at the Skytrain station will continue to thrust them at us whenever we pass by. Each paper also has a website which can be easily accessed from a home or library computer. Also, most freebies also simply obtain much of their content from the "wire" of their larger mother news networks available in other (same company owned) publications.

The real issue the newspapers have here is not that they are trying to protect a reader's right to read, but simply the existence of their advertising space. According to a 2004 analysis of content in 52 US Daily Newspapers by the Readership Institute, 50 percent of the spaces within the papers were made up of advertising content with the other half making up editorial content. One specimen of each of the affected dailies garnered roughly the same result. Without the ad space the papers would definitely cease to provide what *Georgia Straight* director of operations and circulation Nick Collier calls a "public service." This term most often refers to a service provided by government to citizens, mainly to under-represented or remote areas with little interest in profit as a motive—hardly the business model and vision shared by these newspapers.

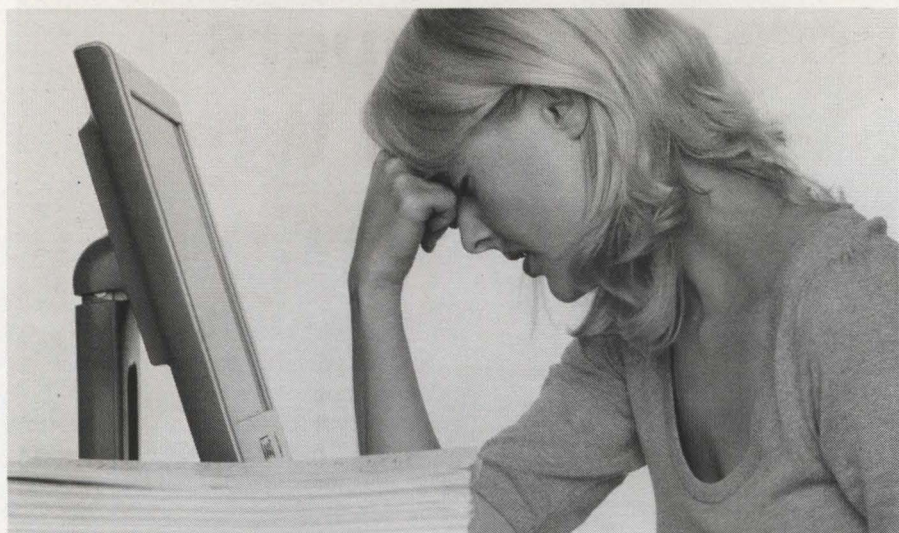
If the populous doesn't like the direction of council, they can make known in the next municipal election. It is purely self-serving and shallow for these papers to use the people of New West as a vehicle to dictate public policy by manufacturing a phony crisis over rights and freedoms on this business decision of the City of New Westminster.





# Hard to Reel in a Catch With Online Dating

By Laura Kelsey, Opinions Editor



I had heard the hype—women finding their husbands, men discovering their soul mates—about online dating sites. So last summer, fed up with what I was finding in the *real* world, I registered on a dating website.

An acquaintance of mine swore by cyber love, boasting about the wonderful man she scooped out of the net. But then again, another acquaintance was disgusted by the barrage of freaks that filled her inbox, and sternly warned me against signing up. I tried to go into this with an open mind.

After coming up with a non-sexual-yet-not-too-nerdy screen name—attempting to put off those who may only contact me for sex or, at the other end of the spectrum, *Dungeons and*

*Dragons* games—I filled out a form and was presented with the blank square that was my *About Me* section. There was also one that followed where you could describe my perfect date. I skipped that one. No one needs to know of my need to sacrifice a yearling goat on a first date in order to set the mood.

But I *did* need to write a profile bio. I played it safe, mentioning my studies and hobbies, and avoiding any negative wording or sexual reference—I wasn't just looking for a quick bang, yet I wasn't disillusioning myself either—I wasn't going to find my soul mate.

I completed my profile and it went live. Now, I waited. What wackos awaited me in the depths of this electronic abyss? But it wasn't wackos that I heard from—it was the illiterate.

"Nice pics so who yer summer goin'." "I like movies an holdin hands you like 2?" "I I am attracted to you in wayz that r diff cause of yer bootiful eyez."

I perused the male options on the site and found little in the way of good choices. Anyone majorly gorgeous came off as extremely egotistical, and many others seemed too bland.

Evidently, I learned, there are a lot of single men in Surrey. The site was also full of what many would consider to be *chauches*—[www.urbandictionary.com](http://www.urbandictionary.com) defines a *chauch* as "Pretty boys who are beefy, vain, do stripper dances at clubs and think it's hot, wear tight shirts. Also possibly tan, use hair products, go to the gym to be looked at, have frosted tipped hair."—Now, beefy doesn't sound so bad. But many of these guys were the *chauch* without the beef, which I guess one could call *chince*.

I decided to take the plunge and allow some of these cyber-suitors to contact me via MSN Messenger. There was no way I was going to just meet dudes straight off the internet. So I got to know them better, and realized I really wasn't interested in dating anyone at all.

When it comes to dating, whether it is electronic, phone, or in-person, a person needs to go into it with not only an open mind, but also an open heart. There are a lot of fish in the sea, but if I am not into it, there isn't one for me. So why can't I bring myself to erase the account?

*While exploring the world of online dating, I came across some absolute no-nos when trying to attract a cyber-mate, and here they are in no particular order:*

-**Don't** post photos of yourself drinking or obviously intoxicated.

-**Don't** say "I love to rock the sheets" in your perfect date scenario.

-**Don't** post photos of you with your ex-girlfriends, or yourself dressed up like your mother.

-**Do** pay attention to your spelling when contacting potential dates (u go 2 skool? were u go?). Avoid use of lame lingo, (i.e. lolz, roflcopter).

-**Don't** post photos of the various scars on your body.

-**Don't** come up with an obviously cocky screen name (too\_hot\_4\_you).

-**Do** keep track of who is who. Getting your new friends mixed up can be embarrassing.

## Change Your Major (before it's too late!)



**Sunny Park**  
sunny side up

My friend Dottie is pretty firm for her age. At 41, men can still bounce quarters off her muscular butt. She credits her firmness to a strict vegetarian diet and regular exercise. While happy that she's still a head turner, her career is something that she's less pleased with.

As a college art instructor with 20 years of experience, Dottie feels that she's wasted her life. She said that, by and large, most of the students that she's taught over the years have gone on to become drug addicts, prostitutes and/or lawyers. She said that, if she hadn't been smoking so much marijuana during her university years, she never would have kept her

arts major, and then been stuck in "this depressing, go nowhere career" where her only desire is for a "sudden, painless death". Are you going to be another Dottie? Perhaps you won't even be so lucky to be blessed with firm, tight buttocks when you are in your 40s.

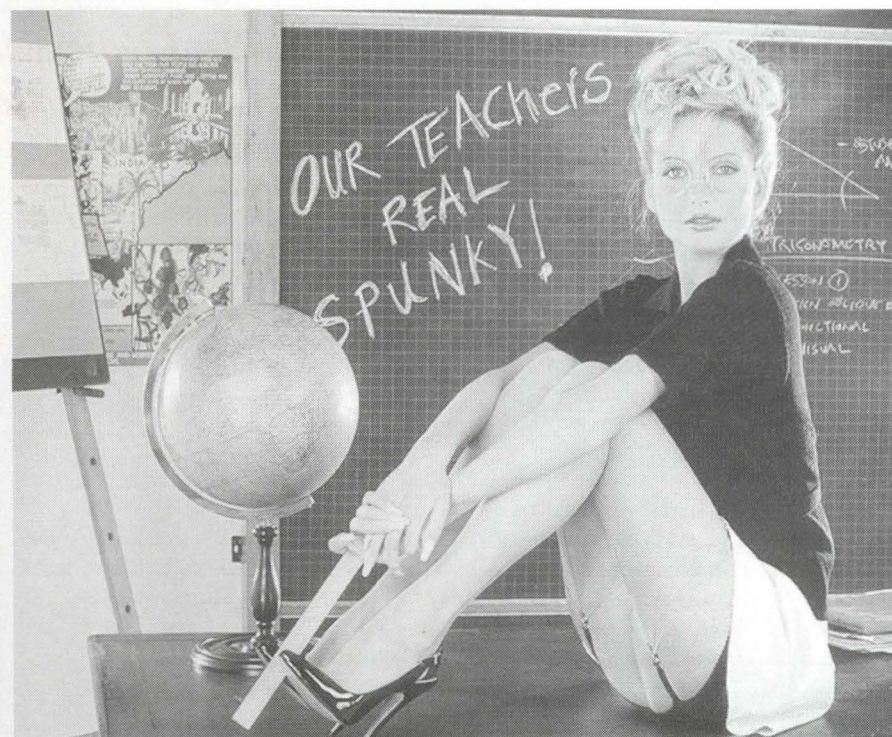
Now is the time to stop smoking so much of the evil weed, and reconsider your major. Why did you choose it in the first place? Was it a soft option? Did your parents pressure you into it? Or was it because you had the hots for your instructor? Looking around Douglas, you can see that there are a lot of very attractive instructors here. Yes, they

know their subjects inside and out, they can rattle off the facts with ease, but, secretly, you find them very easy on the eyes. There's just something that makes your heart race when you see them take firm charge of class! Don't let their attractiveness

distract you from the future that you deserve! As soon as possible, at the next available moment, climb a mountain and commune with God. This will probably take about a month. I know that sounds

like a long time, but it will go by quickly. Plan on eating nothing but organic beans and sprouts. This will cleanse your system of various toxins that prevent you from achieving a higher plane of consciousness. After a few weeks, you will start to hear God's voice. Don't be afraid. Just let the fetid gas purge

from your strained bowels, and open your heart to wisdom. By the end of the month, you will know for certain what major is correct for you, as well as the fact that your parents and most of your instructors up to this point have been in league with the devil.







## Spice Girls Kick Off Their Comeback in Vancouver

December 2, 2007 General Motors Place

By Mae Velasco

I know that the Spice Girls concert was a while back, but I can't seem to get it off my mind! I mean, they kicked off their tour starting with us! Isn't that exciting? It feels like only yesterday.

The crowd was incredibly amazing! Teenage fans were dressed up as Posh (Victoria Beckham) with the sunglasses and the headphones. I myself was dressed up as Baby Spice (Emma Bunton), sans the bleach-blond dyed hair. The group of friends who were near my section were die-hard fans as well, which each dressed as a different member of the Girls. One had a wicked Britain tank top and many had Spice Girls merchandise. There were plenty of Spice Girls shirts and light-up necklaces which the fans were lined up to purchase. It was chaos, but in some way it was lovely as well. The spirit was intense!

The British band was created in 1994 in London, after the girls replied to an ad in Britain's *The Stage* newspaper. Each girl that auditioned had one minute to belt out a tune. Melanie Chisholm sang "I'm So Excited" by the Pointer Sisters. Melanie Brown sang "The Greatest Love of All" by Whitney Houston. Victoria Adams (also known as Victoria Beckham) sang "Mein Herr" from *Cabaret*. There was no Emma Bunton originally, only Michelle Stephenson. But when Michelle left due to her mother being sick Emma took her place, and now we have our own Baby Spice and she's awesome.

It was Geri who came up with the name "Spice," making all the band members into "Spice Girls." Only Geri Halliwell ended up being named after a real spice, however. As the sexiest one of them all, they were going to originally name her "Sexy Spice" but she preferred "Ginger Spice" instead.

Fans were soon jumping for

joy. They were already into them. In a short time the group proceeded to sell over 35 million albums. In 1996 their song "Wannabe" held the top of the UK singles charts for a straight seven weeks. It was a huge victory for the new band and helped establish their identity. And their career continued to bloom.

With all of their successful demos and songs, the Girls soon needed a manager. Their efforts were running out of luck until Simon Fuller came along from 19 Management and signed them to Virgin Records. Tours became more extravagant and the advertisements were going smoothly. Everything was going as planned. Awards were awarded and the Girls were both happy and nervous as ever.

Roberto Cavalli was soon called in to design the Spice Girl's now famous costumes. A famous fashion designer, he devised a glamorous set of signature

***"Personally, I believe the Girls are one of the greatest music idols of all time."***

outfits that accentuated each Spice Girl's own characteristics. Each girl was given their own unique style which made them one-of-a-kind. Roberto and the Girls talked about what they wanted and in return created their look, "When I met them, I immediately understood the reason why the world went crazy for their unique brand of Girl Power as they are an irresistible mix of energy, pure joy, humour, and a spicy dash of glamour. I'm sure their strength will take us by storm again," he said.

The Spice Girls first tour kicked off in 1998. It ran all throughout February 24 to September 20. The show in Ireland was sold out in a mere two hours. Can you believe it? They had 102 dates in all, and went to all of them, even when two of the Girls were pregnant. In total they

performed for 2.1 million fans in Britain, Europe and North America.

Overall, they ended up selling a total of over 55 million albums, and had nine number one singles in the UK, besting hits by Madonna, the Beatles, and Elvis Presley. "Wannabe" remains the biggest single sold by the group, and they hold the honor of being the first female group to ever create nine number one singles.

The band sadly split up in the year 2000, beginning with the departure of Ginger Spice. She ended it because she decided to pursue her very own solo career, soon followed by the other girls also dropping out to pursue their own solo careers as well. Some were also pursuing marriage and motherhood.

In 2007 the band reunited, and the Spice Girls announced the start of a worldwide reunion tour. Their opening Vancouver concert certainly did not

disappoint.

Along with their group numbers, each of the Spice Girls also did a solo. They sang by themselves and what I remember most was when Geri Halliwell sang "It's Raining Men." The screens had thunder rolling and I knew this song would come up. The dancers were all strong and buff. It was wonderful. You would see all the fans dancing and singing along to the song. I was so excited that she even sang it. For days afterward I would bug my brother and sing "It's Raining Men" out of the blue. He got pissed off at me but I didn't care.

Melanie Chisholm sung "I Turn To You," which is a very beautiful song. I had always wondered what song it was when I heard it on the radio. Good thing

I heard it at the concert. It got me going. Singing and dancing as I always was at the concert. The song sent me a powerful message. I have someone to turn to you when I am in trouble, and it is you!

The Spice Girls also performed a very seductive scene. They had booths with a pole and a heart in the middle while dancers put a fan or wings around them as they sang "2 Become 1." I thought it was very romantic in terms of the scenery and the lyrics themselves. Their hit song "Wannabe" was saved for the very end, and there were lots of explosions and colourful confetti. The people in the front were wrapped in confetti. It was like fireworks blasting from the stage. It was so cool!

Many Douglas College students attended the concert and were talking about it long afterwards. "Their singing was not that great, but their dance moves were well choreographed. It was entertaining" said Katerina Tsangarakis.

"They were awesome! I want to see them again. My favourite Spice Girl is Baby Spice and my favourite part of the show was when they first came out of the stage," said my concert buddy Savanna Jones.

Personally, I believe the Girls are one of the greatest music idols of all time. They demonstrate charisma, passion, girl power, and bring a positive image to young girls everywhere. They really sent a good vibe to the audience emotionally through all their dances and songs. It actually blew me away and drew me in closer than I had even imagined.

Seeing the girls live was really a once in a lifetime opportunity. I mean, who knows when they'll actually perform again? It might be over a decade. But who knows? For all of you who were lucky enough to get tickets, I bet you had the time of your lives. I sure did.



# Stuff I've Been Listening To



**Luke Simcoe**  
arts and  
entertainment  
editor

## Downloaded:

LCD Soundsystem – *Sound of Silver*  
Andrew Bird – *Armchair Apocrypha*  
Various Artists – *Juno (Music from the Motion Picture)*

## Listened To:

Japandroids – *Lullaby Death Jams EP*  
The Hives – *The Black & White Album*  
Cuff the Duke – *Sidelines of the City*



### LCD Soundsystem – *Sound of Silver*

It pains me to admit it, but I kind of slept on LCD Soundsystem's (a.k.a. the musical project of producer and DFA Records founder James Murphy) sophomore record. I don't know what it was, but something about Murphy's first record—in which he basically read pages of *VICE* magazine over gimmicky dance beats like some kind of techno Stephen Malkmus—didn't quite grab me. Now that *Sound of Silver* ended up on just about everyone's 'best of' lists for 2007, I decided to give Mr. Murphy another chance. I've since changed my tune, and come around to the fact that the one-two punch of "Someone Great" followed by "All My Friends" is probably the best 14 minutes and three seconds of music released last year.



### Andrew Bird – *Armchair Apocrypha*

According to the little dictionary widget on my Macbook (how's that for product placement?), "apocrypha" is defined as "biblical or related writings not forming part of the accepted canon of Scripture," or more loosely as just "writings or reports not considered genuine." I really have no idea what this means in the context of Andrew Bird's eighth studio album, but I do know that the record takes me right back to Bird's jaw-dropping performance last year at Bumbershoot. Bird's skill as a classically trained violinist and his utterly unique take on indie and folk arrangements made for a mesmerizing performance, and it's all on display on his latest record. As good as he is as a musician and composer, he's an even better wordsmith, and *Armchair* is most definitely his crowning lyrical achievement. The record is packed with esoteric musings on everything from biology to psychology to Thomas Pynchon, and little gems like "life is too long / to be a whale in a cubicle / nails under your cuticle" can be found hiding around every one of the album's many corners.



### Various Artists – *Juno (Music from the Motion Picture)*

If you're not already a fan of New York's anti-folk torchbearers The Moldy Peaches, you will be after watching *Juno*.



### Japandroids – *Lullaby Death Jams EP*

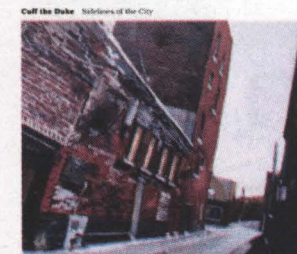
Already a strong contender for best album title of 2008, my favourite local band's second EP takes their tear it down and build it up again post-punk to a place that's darker, edgier and louder. Way louder. Brian King steps up his singing—meaning he actually sings instead of just shouting—and David Prowse pounds the skins with the force of a Mack truck crashing into a brick wall. If you find yourself hungry for one of the best bands to come out of Vancouver in ages, and don't want to wait until the EP finds its way onto the shelves of Zulu and Scratch, you can find Japandroids' "Darkness on the Edge of Gastown" on From Blown Speakers' (itcameoutmagical.blogspot.com) Four Pillars Mix, an online mixtape with proceeds going to keeping Vancouver's safe injection site running.



### The Hives – *The Black & White Album*

So it would seem that The Hives are a bunch of geniuses. How else can you explain such an awesome album title? Placed in context of the Swedish quintets' shameless self-aggrandizing, *The Black & White Album* pokes fun at almost the entire canon of modern popular music (The Beatles, Jay-Z, Prince, and Metallica to name a few) while simultaneously suggesting that The Hives not only belong at the top of the heap, but are also capable of encompassing everything that came before them. Of course the

record doesn't live up to these claims—it wouldn't really be funny if it did—but it's a frenetic reminder that while the boys in The Strokes and The Vines are probably busy waiting tables somewhere, The Hives are still kicking out the jams.



### Cuff the Duke – *Sidelines of the City*

Whether it's the country-fried Canadiana of songs like "If I Live or if I Die" or the absolutely huge guitar of future classic "By Winter's End," these five boys from Oshawa are the undisputed heirs to Canada's alt-country throne.

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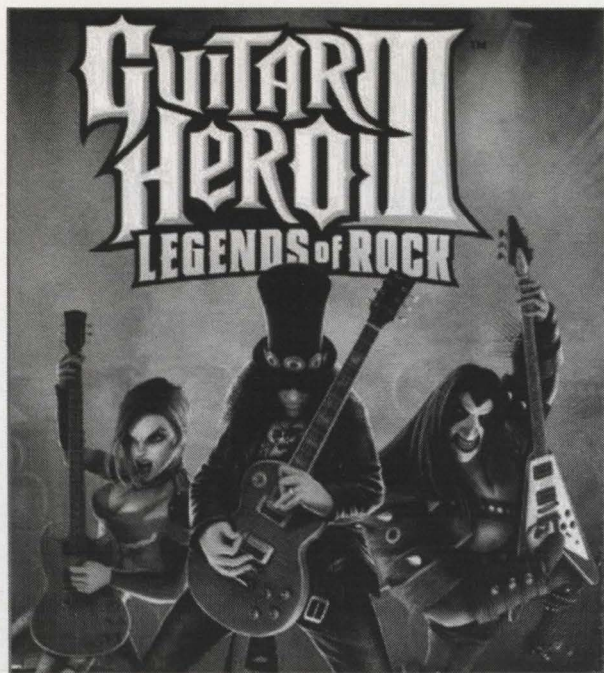
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## Guitar Hero 3 Will Eat Your Evenings

By Marri Knadle, The Martlet (University of Victoria)

VICTORIA (CUP) — Guitar Hero is back, and more addictive than ever. The interactive music game that first took the world by storm in 2005 has just come out with its second sequel in two years, with *Guitar Hero III* appearing on a Playstation, Xbox, or Wii near you.

The wireless Gibson Les Paul guitar controller in the *Guitar Hero III* Xbox 360 bundle boasts pre-release features, including increased sensitivity and a customizable look with changeable faceplates. It does look nice, but mine was defective right out of the box (the strum bar and a few fret buttons refused to cooperate). Needless to say, I was sorely disappointed.

Factory defect aside, the Les Paul is fairly heavy, and the detachable neckpiece, while convenient for storage, made for some wobbly moments. The Les Paul, it seems, is ultimately something of a stylish impediment to comfortably rocking out.

The game itself, however, is pretty darn swell. *Guitar Hero III* has a few new features to set it apart from earlier versions, such as boss battles and a new kind of two-player dueling.

But the fact remains that the pull of the game is still simply playing guitar and enjoying your favourite songs. The new menu design and extra characters are just icing on the delicious cake of the comprehensive track list itself.

The list of songs is impressive, with fewer covers and more original songs than the Guitar Hero prequels. Downloadable content—primarily songs and a few as-yet undisclosed

goodies—promises more opportunities for Xbox Live “Gold” subscribers.

There’s a world of achievements to unlock in the 360 for all skill levels, with varying gamer-point rewards. Botch a song over 90 per cent of the way through? There’s an achievement for that. Complete Career Mode on “Expert” difficulty and you become the Right Hand of God.

Though, completing all Career difficulties may be more frustrating than it was in Guitar Hero II, as the gap between skill levels and even the song sets within each skill ranking is more pronounced.

The online features give the game essentially unlimited play, even beyond what it may take to finish all Career Mode

difficulties and unlock every character, outfit, guitar and song. The co-op online play is available for good times with far-away friends who don’t have a vicious competitive streak, and duels for those who do. The Guitar Hero website goes further in supporting the community potential of the game, with lists of player achievements and upcoming tournaments.

The anticipation building up to the release of *Guitar Hero III* has been keeping the Xbox 360 bundle off most retailer shelves, with no firm re-supply date in sight. The Guitar Hero II controller and the disc itself seem to be widely available, as are PS2 bundles. Whatever combo of software and hardware you choose to go for, it’s well worth getting your hands on it. Make sure your essays are out of the way first, though. This game is an addictive time-killer.

*“The list of songs is impressive, with fewer covers and more original songs.”*

## Song of the Week

“New Year’s Day” by U2

By Pat MacKenzie

Upon the turning of the year, besides looking back—sometimes with nostalgia, sometimes with regret—at the year that has just passed, people are usually inclined to look towards the new year with a renewed sense of optimism. But as the world blindly staggers into 2008 burdened by seemingly intractable conflicts and the ever-lingering awareness that humanity is on the brink of ecological Armageddon, it is hard to be optimistic. And yet life without hope or optimism would be unbearable. Right?

Although it is a predictable choice for this time of year, “New Year’s Day” by U2, found on 1983’s *War*, seems to be performing a high wire act. Balancing between hope and despair, “New Year’s Day,” in the words of St. Bono, is about “the struggle for love.” The song was originally penned as a love song for Bono’s wife, but world events of the early 80s, particularly the Polish solidarity movement, infiltrate “New Year’s Day” and turn it into a serendipitous protest song.

Driven by Adam Clayton’s now distinctive bass line and the Edge’s piano, the sound of “New Year’s Day” is both urgent and stirring. As if amplifying the already compelling nature of the song,

Larry Mullen’s drums add a martial beat, while Bono’s vocals soar over the music, which is laid down like an army on parade.

Perhaps reflecting the destruction wrought by war, the theme of love in “New Year’s Day,” as is usually the case with Bono’s writing, is attended by darkness and loss: “Under a blood red sky/A crowd has gathered in black and white/Arms entwined, the chosen few/The newspapers says/Say it’s true it’s true/And we can break through/Though torn in two/We can be one.” Certainly the music and lyrics of the song convey a sense of foreboding, and it seems that most people would be hard-pressed to call “New Year’s Day” optimistic. Indeed, the song juxtaposes the abyss of violence with the image of two lovers being torn apart. However, the alternating arrangement of the words “I will be with you again,” and “I will begin again” can only be understood as an attempt to cling to the little bit of hope that still remains.

In spite of the horrors implied by “New Year’s Day,” the song is more of an acknowledgement of suffering than a polemic laced with a lack of faith in humanity. Rather than be mired in darkness “New Year’s Day” looks toward the light, however dim it may be.

Happy New Year everybody.





# Tom Hanks' Latest a Tale of War, Tragedy, and Booze

Review of Charlie Wilson's War



Mark Fisher

**M**ovies about wars, especially these days, typically fall into two main camps: dramas about the horrors of conflict, or heroic stories that do double duty as advertisements for the American military. This movie could have easily been seen as either of those, as you could take Charlie Wilson and show how his efforts helped lead to the quagmire that the US currently finds itself in, or you could portray him as a heroic patriot who helped crush communism.

Or, you could portray him as a heavy drinking, cocaine snorting, womanizer who was also a powerful US congressman, which is probably the most historically accurate option in addition to being the most entertaining.

Charlie can't get through his

morning without a stiff drink, and his entire office staff consists of bubbly lolitas in tight outfits. It's a good life, and at the start of the film Charlie seems perfectly happy simply getting re-elected every year, showing up for the occasional vote, and continuing to party like it's 1999. But then one of his biggest donors, the right-wing Texan millionaire Joanne Herring, played by Julia Roberts, comes to cash in on the elections she's helped Charlie win. As a fundamentalist Christian, she's upset that the US is allowing the Godless communists to invade Afghanistan.

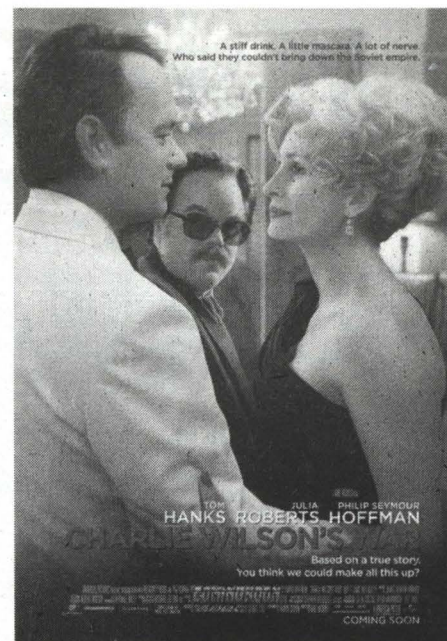
After being "convinced" by Herring, Charlie is quickly on a plane to Pakistan, and following a harrowing trip to the refugee camps (the film's first true serious moment), Charlie puts his southern charm to work convincing the defense committee to covertly fund the war.

Hanks and Roberts are both very good in their roles, but while Roberts truly becomes a character unlike anything she's ever done, Hanks' performance is derivative of several roles he's had in the past; Hanks' Wilson is a mix of Forest Gump and the southern gang leader he played in *The Ladykillers*, and a result,

it's hard to forget that you're watching Tom Hanks act.

Anyway, it's fashionable to shake our heads at how the US funded the forces that would later rebel against them, resulting in both the Gulf War and the rise of the Taliban. But, as the movie shows, at the time, all anyone could think about was sticking it to the Russians. Every time a Soviet helicopter is shot down it's a cause for celebration. No one ever asks if all the money spent was worth it, or what the will happen to the ruined Afghanistan when the Russians pack up and leave. Only on the night the Russians surrender do Charlie and his intelligence specialist, Gust Avrakotos—played by Phillip Seymour Hoffman, doing great work as always—start to think about rebuilding the country. The parallels to the current situation in Iraq are obvious and striking. Unfortunately, no one will listen to their requests.

In a scene that I found truly heartbreaking, Charlie tries without success to convince the spending committee, the same one that approved a war budget of hundreds of billions of dollars, to approve spending one million dollars to rebuild schools in Afghanistan.



With the enemy defeated, no one in Washington wants to think about the struggle to come, they just want to revel in their victory.

And, as the film reminds you in its last shot before the credits roll, America would pay dearly for that attitude.

## Del Toro's Labyrinthine Orphanage

Review of El Orfanato

By Jeff Hammersmark



*The Orphanage*. This is the second film that I've seen advertised with Guillermo Del Toro's name attached to it, and after being absorbed into the world of *Labyrinth*, this is an honour that I believe he deserves.

*El Orfanato* tells the story of Laura (Belen Rueda), who, with her husband Carlos (Fernando Cayo) and seven year old son Simon (Roger Princep), returns to the orphanage she grew up in as a child with ambitions to once again open its doors to needy children. Shortly after moving into the orphanage, Simon befriends an invisible boy, much to the chagrin of his parents who begrudgingly humour their son in the hopes that it is just a phase.

It only gets worse, and tensions build between Simon and his parents as the stories about his new friends become more detailed and the games he plays

become less harmless. While Carlos distances himself, Laura begins to suspect there's more to Simon's fantasy world than meets the eye. Soon, she comes face to face with the reality of her son's fantasy.

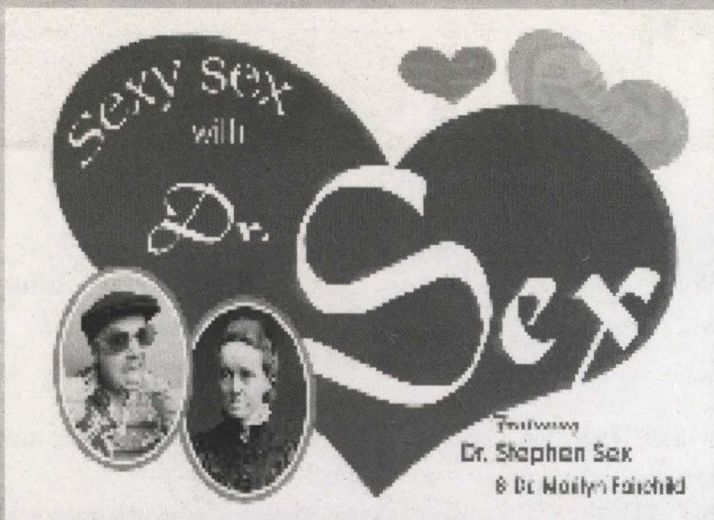
The movie starts fairly slowly, and combined with the subtitles, it may put off some less patient audience members. But rest assured, *El Orfanato* coaxes you in as it develops. The character of Laura is perfectly played, and the film doesn't shy away from using her as a springboard to ask some fairly serious philosophical questions. Everything about how Laura deals with tragedy and succumbs to temptation is perfectly done, and it's a pleasure to see it pulled off so well. The other characters are well cast, and you'll never find yourself distracted from the movie by awkward dialogue or cheesy acting. One of the best things about

the film is how different people will experience it in a completely different way. Are you watching powerful mental turmoil, or something more? All will be revealed, but people will take different paths to get there.

The movie is billed as suspense/horror/thriller, and in my opinion this is a little misleading. There are elements of horror and suspense, but rarely is the movie "thrilling" in the traditional sense. I would call this more of a mystery/suspense, which borrows some tricks from the horror genre. One thing is for sure though; *El Orfanato* will be considered another one of Guillermo Del Toro's great successes. Be warned, however, that the movie is not for everyone. If subtitles don't bother you, and you're not the type who minds trading a non-stop ride at the movies for a bit of a laid-back thinker, then do yourself a favor and see *El Orfanato*.

**"Everything about how Laura deals with tragedy and succumbs to temptation is perfectly done, and it's a pleasure to see it pulled off so well."**





## Two Girls, One Boner

Dear Dr. Sex,

Recently, many of my friends have mentioned a video circulating the internet as being the most *vile, repulsive* thing they have ever seen. They said it made them gag to watch it, and they may never be the same again because of it. So, in the privacy of my own home, I sat down and watched the supposed disgusting video, *Two Girls One Cup*...and immediately had the best whack session of my life! From there, I watched *Two Girls One Finger*, *Four Girls Fingerpainting* and *Salsa Snack*, and loved every second of them! Now, I have never found mild sheiza porn erotic at all, but this was amazing. Does this make me a sick bastard?

—Porn-Oh On Poo

**Dr. Sex:** Ahhh, thank you POOP for starting the New Year off with a BANG!

**Dr. Fairchild:** I will refrain from thanking this reader. Because of him, I had to watch these videos!

**Dr. Sex:** They weren't that bad. I've seen worse.

**Dr. Fairchild:** Like what?!

**Dr. Sex:** Britney Spears's cooch!

**Dr. Fairchild:** No, I'd say they're on par with one another.

**Dr. Sex:** But one had a bigger hole-in-one.

**Dr. Fairchild:** As I've always said, fetishes are different for different people. They come in all shapes and sizes...

**Dr. Sex:** ...just like cocks. Just yours has poop on it.

**Dr. Fairchild:** Everyone gets turned on by something different, and although your newly discovered fetish may be absolutely repulsive to some, as long as it is not harmful to yourself or others it is fine. But that brings me to another point. Eating feces is very harmful to a human. Humans are not meant to eat their own excrement, and doing so can be deadly.

**Dr. Sex:** What about plain-old anal sex?

**Dr. Fairchild:** Any bum play has its risks. Going from anal to vaginal intercourse without properly cleaning the penis (or fingers) can cause bladder infections in a woman, transferring *ecoli* into her urinary tract.

**Dr. Sex:** So if that can happen to a cunt, imagine what ingesting it could do to a person!

**Dr. Fairchild:** It's hard to play with poo in a sanitary way. If its something you like to watch, then watch it on the internet.

**Dr. Sex:** Yeah, let the whores eat their crap for crack!

**Dr. Fairchild:** Dr. Sex, that's not what I'm saying...

**Dr. Sex:** Looks like we are out of time. Thank you for your letter, POOP. Good luck with the turds. 8233 Fax: 604-321-8202

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## FOR MORE INFO



# Arts Time Out

*A new feature giving you a heads-up about what's on around town.*

## January 7

Vancouver Poetry Slam, Café Deux Soleils

## January 9

Dishpig (opening night), Havana

## January 11

Hey Ocean!, UBC Pit Pub

## January 12

Sweatshop Union, Sonar  
Michael Buble, GM Place  
Elevation (U2 tribute band),  
Commodore Ballroom  
Ladyhawk & Bison, The Astoria

## January 13

The Sunday Service (Improv),  
Hennessy Dining Lounge

## January 14

Luke Doucet, The Orpheum

## January 15

Luke Doucet, The Orpheum

## January 18

Circle Jerks, Richard's on Richards

Teenagers, Richard's on Richards (early show)

## January 19

Hedley, Commodore Ballroom  
SNFU, Red Room  
Tranzmitors, The Chapel

## January 20

Classified, The Plaza Club  
The Sunday Service (Improv),  
Hennessy Dining Lounge

## January 21

Dan Deacon, Richard's on Richards

## January 23

White Williams & HEALTH,  
The Media Club

## January 24

The Bravery, Richard's on Richards  
You Say Party! We Say Die!,  
The Plaza Club

## January 25

Loverboy, Commodore Ballroom  
Bend Sinister, Richard's on Richards  
Brent Butt, River Rock Casino Resort

## January 26

The Evaporators, Seylynn Hall  
Macy Gray, River Rock Casino Resort

## January 27

The Sunday Service (Improv),  
Hennessy Dining Lounge

## January 28

Silverstein, Croatian Cultural Centre

## February 1

Three Days Grace, Commodore Ballroom  
Storyfeast 2008, Heritage Hall

## February 2

Three Days Grace, Commodore Ballroom  
From the Jam, Richard's on Richards

## February 3

Puddle of Mudd, Commodore Ballroom  
The Sunday Service (Improv),  
Hennessy Dining Lounge

## February 5

Editors & Hot Hot Heat,  
Commodore Ballroom

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# Another Black Eye For Baseball

## Mitchell Report exposes steroid abuse



**Garth McLennan**  
sports editor

Former United States Senator George J. Mitchell has finally completed his 20 month, \$20 million investigation into baseball's steroid scandal. Out of the expensive search for the truth came the Mitchell Report, a 300 page account of a vast number of professional baseball players who used steroids.

MLB commissioner Bud Selig appointed Mitchell as the head of the ambitious project on March 30, 2006. The point of the investigation was to uncover just how deep the steroid usage among players had come. Selig decided to go forward with the examination after reading the controversial yet groundbreaking book *Game of Shadows*, which alleged that large number of players had utilized steroids, from utility players to former MVPs such as Barry Bonds.

The report itself was a massive affair. Mitchell's operation interviewed over 700 people, though just 68 of those were actual players. Mitchell asked over 500 players for interviews, but the players and the MLBPA union were largely uncooperative. Past or present club officials, managers, coaches, team doctors, trainers, and security personnel accounted for the rest of the interviews.

The report named more than 70 active or former baseball players as steroid users. According to Mitchell, he has discovered that there was at least one player from all 30 major league baseball clubs taking steroids or other performance enhancing drugs. Mitchell has said that after random drug screening and testing was instituted in 2004, human growth hormone (HGH) became the most popular form of artificial enhancement,

as it was undetectable in testing at the time.

The results of the report cast major doubt on the accomplishments of teams and players for over the last 15 years. Prominent players that were named in Mitchell's findings included seven-time NL MVP Barry Bonds, pitching superstars Roger Clemens and Andy Petite, all-star MVP Miguel Tejada, Jason Giambi, and star closer Eric Gagne.

Clemens has been adamant that he has never taken any form of performance enhancing drugs, or any substances for that matter. This is despite the testimony of former trainer Brian McNamee, who claims that he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone.

questions. I plan to publicly answer all of those questions at the appropriate time in the appropriate way. I only ask that in the meantime people not rush to judge me," Clemens said in a prepared statement.

Meanwhile, the Milwaukee Brewers, who just three days before the release of the Mitchell report signed closer Eric Gagne to a one-year, \$10 million contract, have stated that they will not be voiding Gagne's new deal. Gagne has been the subject of human growth hormone allegations.

While the report is certainly troubling, the brunt of the blame should not go solely on the shoulders of the players cited as steroid users. The entire baseball community is to blame, from the players, to the equipment staff, to

MLB postseason and resulted in the cancellation of the World Series for the first time in history.

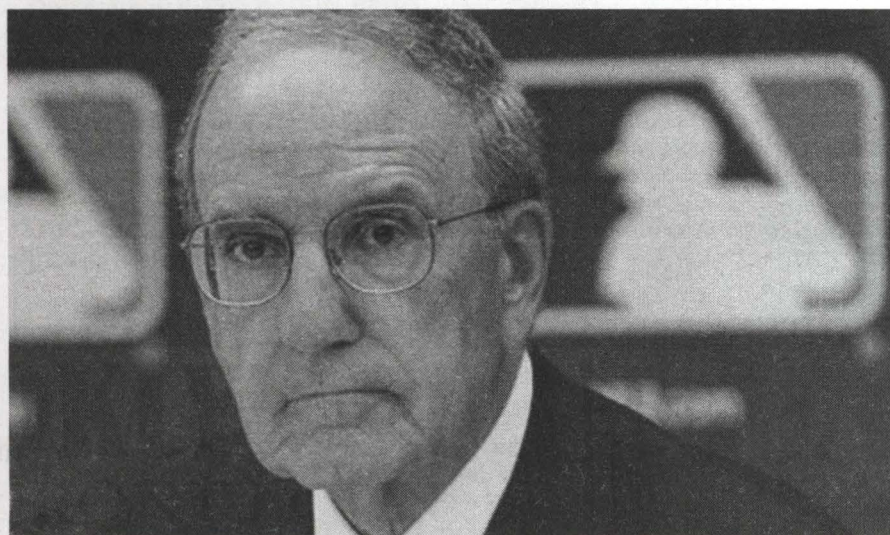
Fans were turned off by the game. They were sick of rich, whining players and even richer whining owners. The '94 strike was the eighth work stoppage in baseball, and the fans simply had no reason to come back. The owners were in dire straights.

Then came the legendary home run race between Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa in 1998, that saw the two power-hitters race to break Roger Maris' single-season home run record of 61 dingers that had been around since 1961. McGuire enjoyed a fairy-tale year and established a new benchmark with 70 homers, while Sosa finished the year with 66, just four back of McGuire.

It has been strongly argued that those two saved baseball. The owners recognized that the fans wanted home runs, home runs, and more home runs. So they looked the other way. They ignored the blatant signs of steroid abuse as players swelled and ballooned to cartoonish proportions. All one has to do is look at Barry Bonds, whose performance has increased as he's aged, and how big his body has gotten since he entered the league.

Allowing players to inject steroid and ingest HGH made fiscal sense for the owners. The fans were getting what they wanted—home runs—while the players were cashing in on monstrous new contracts. The owners were enjoying the benefits of millions of fans returning to the game, as baseball became America's pastime again.

However, can any of us really look at baseball the same way again? Can we still watch in awe as today's superstars shatter the benchmarks set by hallowed legends such as Ruth, Maris, and Aaron? It is unknown. What is known is that with the release of this report, which puts the exclamation point on baseball's steroid era, the game that is synonymous with Mom's apple pie and a warm, small town feeling will never be the same.

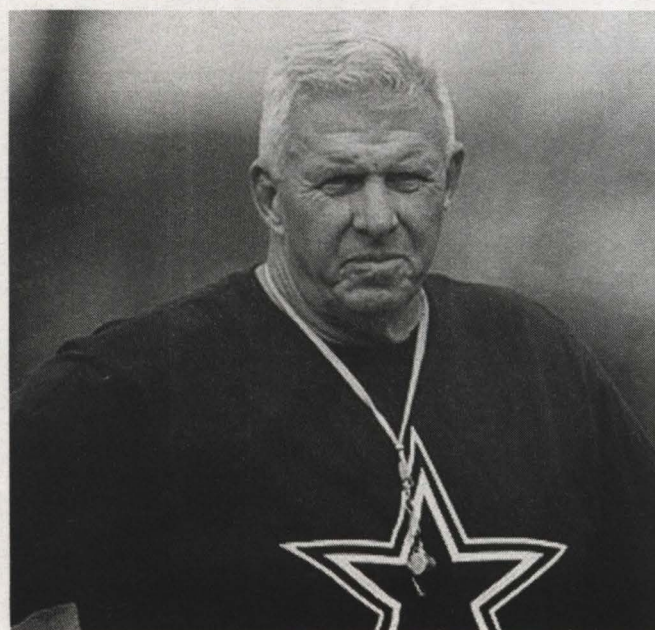


*"Can any of us really look at baseball the same way again?"*

"I want to state clearly and without qualification: I did not take steroids, human growth hormone, or any other banned substances at any time in my baseball career or, in fact, my entire life. Those substances represent a dangerous and destructive shortcut that no athlete should ever take. I am disappointed that my 25 years in public life have apparently not earned me the benefit of the doubt, but I understand that Senator Mitchell's report has raised many serious

owners of the teams. They all knew what was going on and very rarely did anyone step up and tell the whole truth. That isn't to say the players are not to blame. They were all grown men who knew what they were doing and what the reprehensible implications of their actions were.

The basic truth was that the owners turned a blind eye to the steroid problem. The state of baseball was in tatters after the devastating 232-day strike in 1994 that wiped out the entire



## Will Parcells Save the Dolphins?

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

The Miami Dolphins, one of the worst teams in football over the past few years, have hired the legendary Bill Parcells as the team's new executive vice-president of football operations.

If anyone can save the Dolphins, who at the time Parcells was hired had an abysmal 1-13 record, it is Parcells. The 66-year old has won two Super Bowls, both with the New York Giants and appeared in another one with the New England Patriots. Parcells most recent football job was as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys from 2003-2006, where he coached the team to a 34-32 record.

Parcells definitely has the credentials

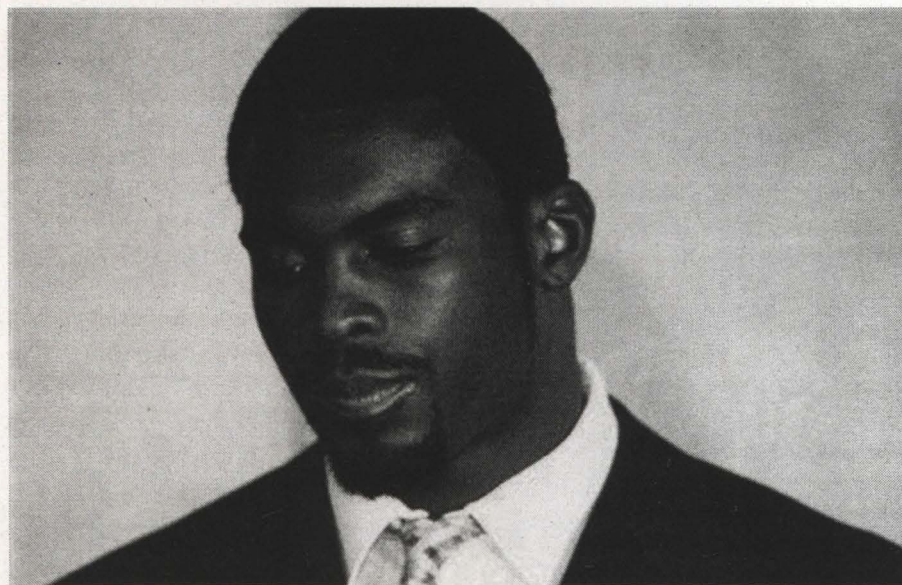
necessary to resurrect the Miami franchise. In 1986, he was named the Associated Press, UP! Magazine, and Sporting News NFL Coach of the Year. In 1994, Parcells was again awarded the AP, UP! Magazine, NFL Coach of the Year, only this time he also won the NFL coaching awards from the Maxwell football club and Pro Football weekly. In 1996, Pro Football weekly again named Parcells the coach of the year. Parcells owns a 172-130-1 regular season record and a 11-8 postseason mark.

Parcells will answer directly to Dolphins' owner Wayne Huizenga, and will have head coach Cam Cameron and General Manager Randy Mueller answer to him. The contract is a four-year deal.



# Vick Sentenced to 23 Months in Jail

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor



It looks like Michael Vick won't be ready for the 2009 season after all. The embattled Atlanta Falcons quarterback was sentenced to 23 months in a Federal prison by US Judge Henry Hudson.

Vick was guilty of heinously slaughtering dogs and funding, participating in, and orchestrating an illegal dog-fighting ring in a home he owns in rural Virginia.

Vick plead guilty on August 27 to the federal felony of dog fighting. He was suspended indefinitely by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, and will have to forfeit the bulk of his massive ten year, \$130 million deal he signed with the Atlanta Falcons in December, 2004. He also received a \$37 million signing bonus, which the Falcons are attempting to repossess. At the time, that was the largest contract in NFL history.

Through the ensuing scandal, guilty plea, and conviction, Vick lost much more than his official NFL salary. He also had numerous endorsement agreements lost. Nike, Reebok, Rawlings, Donruss, Upper Deck, the NFL, and Dick's sporting goods and sports authorities all terminated their endorsement deals with Vick.

Vick, who surrendered to begin his sentence early in November, was responsible for the operation and financing of Bad Newz Kennels, an interstate dog-fighting ring.

Bad Newz Kennels was responsible for the torture of over 70 dogs, primarily pit bulls, and many of them were discovered dead. They were found to be tortured by electrocution, hanging, drowning, and severe beating. The ones that lost in the vicious battles were killed.

Vick initially denied involvement in the operation. However, on July 30, Tony Taylor reversed his plea to guilty and provided the courts with a full documentation of the events. He claimed that he, Vick and two fellow defendants had started Bad Newz Kennels in 2001, and that almost exclusively Vick financed the entire venture. He said that Vick paid the \$30,000 to purchase the house in Smithfield, Virginia, where Bad Newz Kennels was headquartered.

Shortly after, the other two defendants, Peace and Phillips, altered their pleas to guilty and turned on Vick. They were sentenced to 18 and 21 months in prison, respectively. Vick changed his plea to guilty on August 30.

While it is possible that Vick will be permitted to play in the NFL again pending his release, it is highly unlikely that an organization would take a chance on him. His agent has speculated that Vick will almost certainly not play in the CFL, as it would be extremely difficult for Vick to procure a Canadian work visa. One possibility is that Vick may play in the Arena football league.

# Niedermayer Not Ready to Call it Quits

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

Scott Niedermayer isn't ready to retire just yet. The Anaheim Ducks superstar defenseman has agreed to come out of retirement and suit up for the team again.

Niedermayer, 34, achieved his life's dream at the end of last season, winning his fourth Stanley Cup, and his first with his younger brother Rob. The elder Niedermayer felt he had accomplished all there was to accomplish in hockey, and unofficially retired, despite having two more years on his contract that would pay him \$6.75 million that he signed in 2005. However, after seeing the Ducks struggle this season, Niedermayer felt he could go for at least this season, and possibly next as well.

With the return of Niedermayer, who was the captain of the team last year but has had that vacated role filled by Chris Pronger, the Ducks have one of the strongest defensive units in NHL history. Aside from Niedermayer, who last season set career scoring totals, the Ducks also boast Chris Pronger, one of the most dominating defensemen of all time, and Matthew Schneider, another superb blueliner that was signed in the off-season to replace Niedermayer.

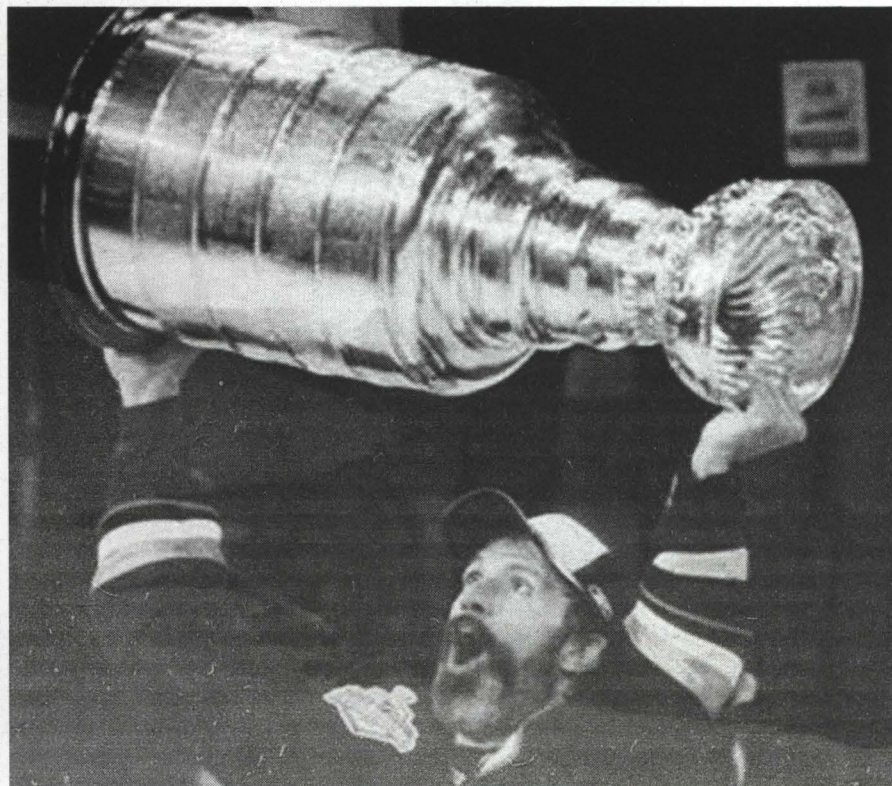
It was suspected that when Niedermayer announced his return, that the Ducks would attempt to trade Schneider, who makes \$5.3-million, to make room for Niedermayer's large salary. However, GM Brian Burke swung a deal with the St. Louis Blues, sending young centerman Andy MacDonald to the Blues in exchange for veteran center Doug Weight. The teams also exchanged draft picks. While Niedermayer pondered whether to return to the ice or not, the team suspended him, allowing them to save money against the salary cap.

Burke had to do some of his best work to fit everyone in under the cap with Niedermayer's coming back. Anaheim was already pressed right up against the \$53 million limit, having just signed franchise cornerstone Ryan Getzlaf to a five-year extension. The MacDonald trade allows room for Niedermayer, with enough left over to lock up the team's young sniper, Corey Perry.

Niedermayer recorded his first point, an assist, in his second game back against the San Jose Sharks in a 2-0 Ducks win. With Niedermayer in the lineup, the Ducks won their next contest as well, 2-1 over the Colorado Avalanche in overtime.

There has never been a winner quite like Scott Niedermayer. At every level he's played at, championships have come his way. He is the only player in history to win all six major championships: The Memorial Cup, the World Junior Championship, the World Championship, the Olympics, the World Cup, and the Stanley Cup.

Niedermayer, currently in his 16<sup>th</sup> NHL season, was drafted third overall in the 1991 entry draft by the New Jersey Devils, where he spent 13 years before signing with the Ducks. While in the swamp, Niedermayer won three Stanley Cups alongside Martin Brodeur and Scott Stevens, and established himself as one of the game's top defensemen. Last season was his best however; as he led the Ducks to set franchise records in points and wins as Anaheim led the NHL in regular season points. He was named to the NHL's first all-star team and won the James Norris Trophy as the league's best defenseman. In the playoffs, he was named the playoff MVP, carting home the Conn Smythe Trophy.



# Mayweather Knocks Out Hatton

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

Floyd Mayweather Jr. is still the WBC Welterweight champion after knocking out Ricky Hatton in the tenth round of their December 8 fight.

The bout was a showdown staged at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas between the two undefeated combatants. Entering the fight, Mayweather was 38-0 with 24 knockouts, while the Englishman Hatton was 43-0.

Hatton put up a terrific fight, and displayed courage and fire until the end, unfortunately, he was unable to best the genius of Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Hatton was cut in the third round, and hit with a thunderous right in the eighth round, snapping his head back. In the ninth, Hatton was hit with a number of combos. He kept fighting until the very end, but was cold-cocked with a massive left in the tenth round.



# McDonald's Employees Completely Baffled By Raekwon the Chef's Order

By "Salty" Liam Britten



STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK—An ordinary shift at the Bay Street McDonald's in Staten Island ended in confusion last Thursday when rapper Raekwon the Chef of the Wu-Tang Clan placed an order for what employees

could only assume was four hamburgers and ice creams. James Sims, an employee of eight months, took the order.

"I didn't really catch most of it, it was really fast," reported Sims. "And he kept talking about God, or maybe he was

calling himself God? And what the fuck is an ice cream burger?"

Raekwon, born Corey Woods, but also known as Lex Diamonds, Mr. Woods, Clyde Smith, Ray Cartegna, Rocky Boulders or Raethamater, arrived at the McDonald's Drive-Thru window at 10:19 PM, in a 2006 Lincoln Navigator. After two unsuccessful attempts to place his order, Sims began recording the third: "Yo, word up me and my nigga Streetlife from 212 got the munchies crazy off the hook, God. Yo, straight up, tell the

burger flippin' mothafuck that I'm goin' [unintelligible] crazy waitin' for those burgers, word is bond. Tell him to shimmy shimmy [unintelligible] me and Street a couple of one over fours,

and shit better be hot, I ain't some okee dokee nigga when it comes to that ice cream-ass burger. [unintelligible] And yo, we only got bills, so I hope you gots some C.R.E.A.M. to pass me when shit is on, or I can bring game on ya, bring the mothafuckin' ruckuss."

After this attempt, Sims and his co-workers simply made a guess, and gave the rapper four hamburgers and four ice creams. Raekwon left, but returned 15 minutes later, complaining about his order, and then spoke to a manager. As punishment for simply "winging the order", night shift manager Jeremy Daniels suspended Sims for three days without pay. Daniels defended his actions in an interview with *The Other Press*:

"I stand by my decision to suspend James because he was rude to the customer," Daniels told reporters. "Besides, James needed to learn it once, and learn it right: Wu-Tang Clan ain't nothing to fuck with. And neither are their dinner orders."

## TOP 5 SIGNS OF AN IMPENDING SPRING ELECTION

Canadian political analysts are expecting a federal election this spring. What are the signs that this is a possibility?

- 5..... Jack Layton's moustache visibly erect and aroused.
- 4..... Stephen Harper left his burrow and saw his own shadow.
- 3..... Gilles Duceppe being more of a dick than ever.
- 2..... Green Party candidates have put fresh water in their bongos.
- 1..... Canadians finally getting sick of an unrepresentative parliament full of Liberal dimwits and Conservative corporate goons. They are finally ready to elect a new parliament which will be equally unrepresentative and just as full of Liberal dimwits and Conservative corporate goons.

## TOP 5 POST-NEW YEAR'S EVE SENTIMENTS

The 2008 New Year's celebrations went off without a hitch this year, and across Canada, The New Year was ushered in with much celebrating and drinking. What were Canadians thinking the morning after?

- 5..... What the hell just happened?
- 4.....
- 3.....
- 2.....
- 1..... Nuuuuhhhh... Ahhhhhh... Goddamn... What the hell just happened?

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HARD #1

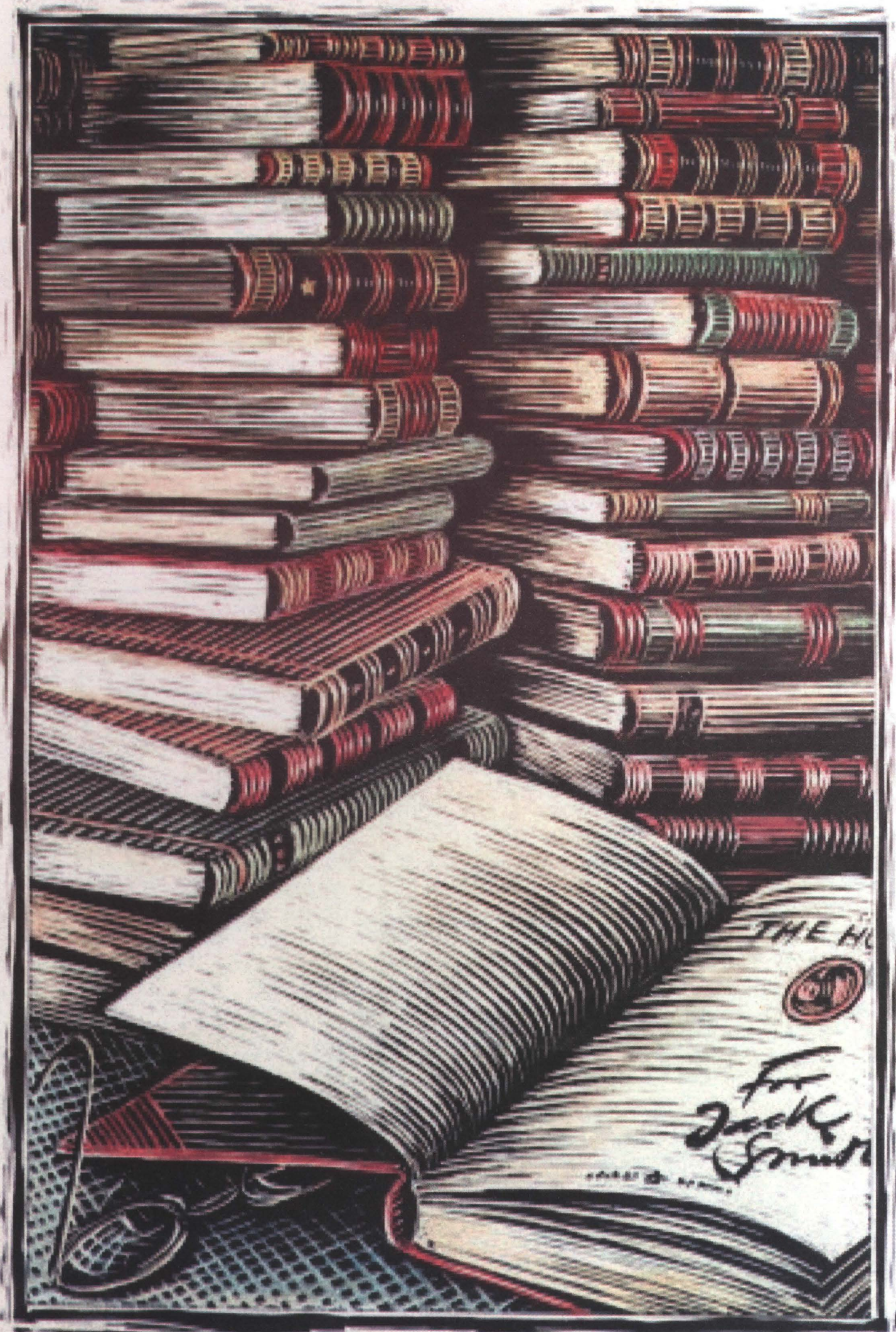
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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